

conditions, with no luxuries or amenities we often take for granted.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Hilda Grigorian for her unwavering commitment to the people of Armenia and Afghanistan and wish her well in all future endeavors.

NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM CLASS 4A MARYLAND STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and congratulate the North Point varsity basketball team on winning the Class 4A Maryland state finals. The narrow victory over Patterson High School on March 12th was not only a great achievement for the North Point Eagles but was the first time a Southern Maryland Athletic Conference team has taken the championship in 39 years.

This year's championship is the perfect ending to the perfect season. After months of training, practice, travel and games, the Eagles earned a number one seed and a home regional championship game against Glen Burnie. North Point put Glen Burnie to rest in one solid quarter, gaining a 29 to 6 lead from which Glen Burnie could not recover.

After 26 wins and no losses, North Point faced one last challenge—to beat Patterson High School in the state finals at the Comcast Center in College Park, Maryland. North Point took the lead early and then fell behind only to finish strong in dramatic fashion, triumphing by just 76 to 72 over their respectable opponents. The "epic Blast at Comcast" completed for a 27 and 0 record for these student-athletes, making them the only one in Maryland to have a perfect season.

Under the guidance of their coach, Jimmy Ball, this basketball team's strong defense made the difference. According to a recent news release, "North Point led by as much as 16 points but found themselves trailing Patterson 66-65 with 3:20 remaining. Senior Gerel Simmons scored seven points in the final two and a half minutes to seal the title. Sophomores Naim Muhammad, who recorded a double-double (20 points, 11 rebounds), and Marquis Wright, who scored nine points and dished out 12 assists, paced the Eagles defensive effort against a Patterson team that averaged more than 80 points a contest this year. Senior captain Devonte Thomas scored 10 points and collected eight rebounds while Simmons finished with 19 points."

Let me also honor the entire North Point High School community for they are an integral part of this team's victorious season. At every game the fans chant, in a unified voice, "We are North Point." As Principal Kim Hill has said, the motto declares that "We are many, but we are united as one." And as one team, one school, and one community they were able to accomplish victory. Congratulations to the North Point High School Eagles and the North Point Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on May 12, 2011 and May 13, 2011 due to attending my son Hunter T. Wilson's Army commissioning and graduation in Industrial Engineering at Clemson University. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 315—Tsongas of Massachusetts Amendment No. 5—nay; roll Number 316—Brown of Florida Amendment No. 6—nay; roll Number 317—Thompson of California No. 7—nay; roll Number 318—Inslee of Washington No. 8—nay; roll Number 319—Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1231, "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act"—nay; roll Number 320—On Passage of H.R. 1231, "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act"—aye; roll Number 321—H. Con. Res. 50, providing for adjournment of the House—aye.

Roll Number 322—H. Res. 264, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes—aye; roll Number 323—Mike Rogers of Michigan Amendment—aye; roll Number 324—Gibson of New York Amendment—aye; roll Number 325—Hinchey of New York Amendment—nay; roll Number 326—Carney of Delaware Amendment—nay; roll Number 327—Reed of New York Amendment—aye; roll Number 328—Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 754, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011"—nay; roll Number 329—On Passage of H.R. 754, "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011"—aye.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
REGARDING H.R. 658

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following correspondence between Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, myself, and Chairman DAVE CAMP regarding the inclusion of language in the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill permitting tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft for air ambulance services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 14, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: We write to request your support for the inclusion of language in the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft to provide air ambulance services.

Current tax law prevents states from using tax-exempt bonds to finance new fixed-wing air ambulances while tax-exempt bonds can be used for the acquisition of medical helicopters. Aircraft and helicopters are both important for emergency medical care.

While helicopters can be used to provide air ambulance services, airplanes are commonly a superior mode of emergency air transportation for critically ill patients in rural areas. In many instances, the use of helicopters for air ambulance services in rural areas is impractical because of the long distances that patients must be transported. Also, airplanes present the safest and fastest mode of transportation during inclement weather. Allowing states to use tax-exempt bonds to finance fixed wing aircraft used exclusively for emergency medical services in the same way they can for helicopters will allow for better emergency medical service in our rural communities and save more lives.

Thank you for considering bringing equality to the tax code for fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS.
CATHY MCMORRIS
RODGERS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2011.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS: Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the provision in the Senate's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

I appreciate your leadership, as well as that of others such as Representative Dave Reichert, a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, in bringing this issue to my attention. As we prepare to enter negotiations with the Senate on a final version of the FAA reauthorization legislation, I look forward to working with you and other interested Members to better understand this issue and to explore possible modifications to current law in this area.

Thank you again for your letter and interest.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2011.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
Vice Chair, House Republican Conference, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MCMORRIS RODGERS: Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the provision in the Senate's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

I appreciate your leadership, as well as that of others such as Representative Dave Reichert, a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, in bringing this issue to my attention. As we prepare to enter negotiations with the Senate on a final version of the FAA reauthorization legislation, I look forward to working with you and other interested Members to better understand this issue and to explore possible modifications to current law in this area.

Thank you again for your letter and interest.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP.